

# NGA Policy Academy

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## Governance to Advance Interoperable Communications

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# NGA Policy Academy Summary

- Policy Academy Funding was applied for and received by the PSIC Office in late 2008
  - Six states were chosen to participate - AZ, AR, ID, MA, NY, WA
- The Academy kickoff was held in January of 2009 with Lisa Meyerson, Michael Todd, Dan Wills and Pat Quinn making up the Arizona team
- The Status Reporting Conference was held in July with Lisa Meyerson, Emilie Sundie, Dan Wills and Pat Quinn representing Arizona
- Final Project Reporting will be delivered at the end of August

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# Academy Goal and Award

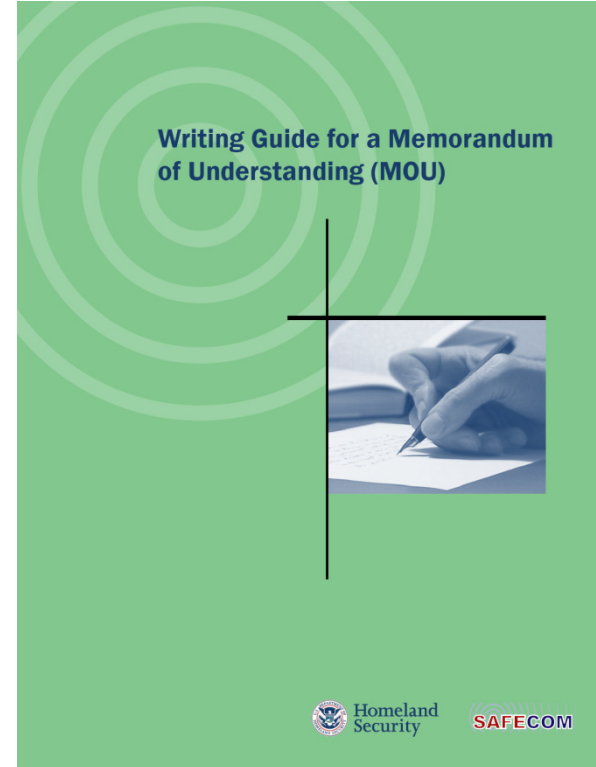
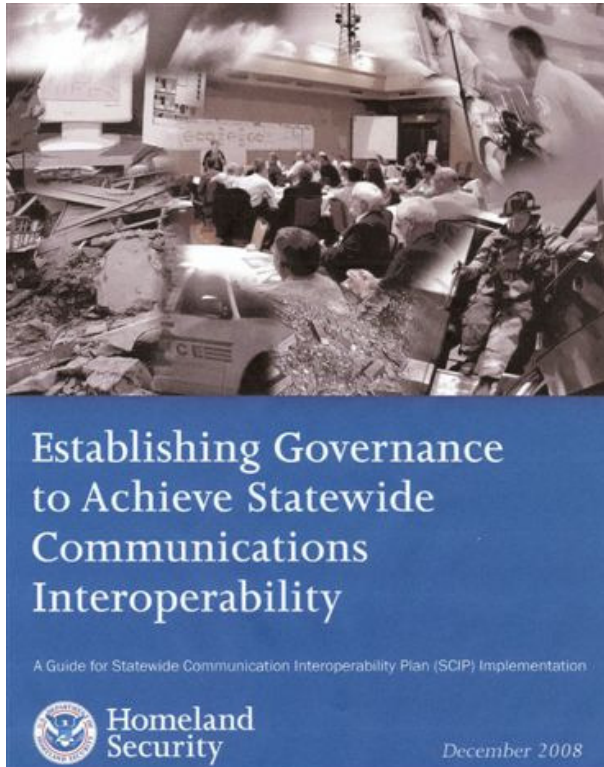
## **The Grant Goal:**

**Improve state interoperability governance structures that oversee statewide interoperability planning and implementation**

## **The Grant Provided:**

- **\$50,000 to cover facilitation, travel and facilities**
- **Attendance by state team at two Policy Academy meetings**
- **Optional site visits**
- **Customized technical assistance**

Significant federal resources of excellent quality are available, and more are being developed



States vary widely in their approach to developing governance to advance interoperable communications

All states appear to be continually developing and refining their governance model, regardless of their level of development along the governance continuum





# Common Challenges

Governing by consensus requires participation of all public safety disciplines at all levels of the organization – and that is hard to achieve

Education is key and regular changes in executive and legislative leadership require continual education and outreach programs to develop and maintain long term plans for achieving interoperability

Sustainable funding sources are hard to acquire and increasingly difficult to maintain in today's economic environment

Some things work and some don't – every state had failures along with its successes and states must continually evaluate and adapt best practices to make them succeed locally



# Examples of Other State Projects

## New York State

- Hosted its first First Public Safety Interoperability Symposium with Focus on Governance.
- Its goal was to help state and local policymakers improve state governance structures overseeing public safety communications interoperability planning and implementation.

## Idaho

- Established three statewide practitioner-driven regional interoperable communications governance councils, each composed of two districts.
- Established district and regional governance models
- Developed a Draft Charter, By-Laws, Regional MOU template and FAQ sheet for the councils

# ***Arizona's Policy Academy Presentation and Report***

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